

B-3586

c. 1823

Daniel Robinson-George Hildebrand house  
117 Diamond Alley  
Baltimore  
no access/U. Md.

The dwelling at 117 Diamond Alley is one of a pair of buildings which are survivors of a larger row of buildings built on then Market Lane in the early 1820's. The two buildings (117 and 119) are nearly identical; the facade of No. 117 consists of two bays at each of three story levels with an entrance raised above street level. The west facade is executed in Flemish bond for the first two stories with Common bond above the level of the second story lintels and continuing to the two-course, corbelled brick cornice.

Doorway and most windows are boarded up, but the lintel and sill treatment remains discernable, consisting of plain, wooden lintels with undifferentiated corner blocks which may have once received some decorative treatment. Sills are formed of a projecting soldier course of bricks.

The facade is encrusted with layers of paint and stucco, and the interior has been gutted by fire. The plan of the first floor consists of two back to back parlors with fireplaces, the rear of which contains a corner window next to the fireplace. A doorway connects this back parlor with a one story kitchen addition.

Located within a very short distance of Lexington Market, these narrow, subsequently heightened structures exemplify once-common expanses of working class housing constructed during the second and third decades of the 19th century.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Daniel Robinson - George Hildebrand house

AND/OR COMMON

117 Diamond Alley

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

117 Diamond Alley

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore City

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER abandoned

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State of Maryland/University of Maryland Telephone #: 853-3683

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Office of University Planning, University of Maryland

CITY, TOWN

College Park

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20742

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Calvert &amp; Fayette St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland

STATE

Liber #: RHB 3345  
Folio #: 759

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The dwelling at 117 Diamond Alley is one of a pair of buildings which are survivors of a larger row of buildings dating from the 1820's. Diamond Alley, known as Market Lane in the early nineteenth century, runs north-south parallel to Greene and Paca Streets subdividing the block between Lexington and Fayette Streets. The pair (numbers 117 and 119) are bounded on the south by a parking lot and on the north by a multi-story commercial building. Across the alley from these two structures on the exposed southern face of the multi-story, brick commercial building is visible the ghost of a gable indicating (as do the nineteenth century maps mentioned below) the existence of a similar row of modest brick row houses.

These two surviving dwellings are nearly identical in appearance. The southernmost of the pair at 117 Diamond Alley is about fourteen feet wide, its facade consisting of two bays at each of three story levels with an entrance raised above street level. The west facade is executed in Flemish bond for the first two stories with common bond above the level of the second story lintels and continuing to the two-course, corbelled brick cornice. The change in brickwork indicates that the building was raised from two to three stories probably within 10-15 years of its initial construction.

On basement level a small window opening occurs in the southernmost of the two bays. Flanking it to the north, four concrete steps form the approach to the doorway on first story level. The doorway itself is boarded shut, as are the majority of the windows. Though this building, unlike the dwelling at 119 Diamond, has been covered subsequently in stucco and painted red, the lintel and sill treatment remains discernable along with the double row of corbelling at cornice level. This remaining exterior trim consists of plain wooden lintels with now undifferentiated corner blocks which appear as though originally they may have received some decorative treatment. The lintel of the window which constitutes the southern bay of the first story is placed evenly with the one belonging to the door and is identical in appearance. A projecting soldier course of bricks forms the sill.

The second story features two windows in positions corresponding with the openings below and similarly detailed. The lintel and sill of the southern window, not as heavily encrusted with stucco and paint are more evident than trim elsewhere on the building.

On the third story, two windows of the same proportion and trim punctuate the wall above the other fenestration. No trace of the original sash exists here and the windows are not boarded up.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c1823

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The dwelling at 117 Diamond Alley along with its neighbor at 119 Diamond Alley are typical of a species of building fast disappearing in present-day Baltimore. Located on an alley within a very short distance of Lexington Market, these narrow, subsequently heightened structures exemplify once-common expanses of working class housing constructed during the second and third decades of the nineteenth century.

At that time, Diamond Alley was known as Market Lane and as entries in the city directories from the period indicate, was the locus of a number of small businesses. Frances Dawes, a cooper, operated his business from one of these houses from 1833-1842.<sup>1</sup> Lewis Linker, a cabinetmaker, leased the building at 119 in 1858, and city directories continue to list him at this address through 1865-1866. The dwelling at 117 was used as a residence by the family of George Hildebrand from 1870-1880.<sup>2</sup>

In 1833 prior to Samuel Walker's acquiring the property from Daniel Robinson (and subsequently renting to Frances Dawes), Charles Howard transferred via lease both properties to Robinson "to have and to hold with improvements, said lot of ground and premises" for \$120 ground rent. The improvements or premises are the dwellings at 117 and 119 Diamond Alley which first appear on Poppleton's 1823 map of Baltimore as part of the heavy settlement concentrated on the block bounded by Paca, Fayette, Greene and Lexington Streets, directly south of Lexington Market.

The buildings gain special importance when compared to other buildings on this block, constructed c.1830 for wealthier tenants such as 502-504 Fayette, where the proportions are ampler and the detailing more refined. The juxtaposition of types (working class and upper middle class housing) within the same square block provides an important social as well as architectural document of the period.

## FOOTNOTES

1. Baltimore City Directories for 1833, 1835-6, 1837-8, 1842.
2. Files of CHAP (see bibliography).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Files of the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation,  
 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland. (Entries for 117, 119 Diamond Alley)  
 Field notes and measured drawing by Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites  
 Surveyor for MHT  
 Poppleton's 1823 Map of Baltimore  
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Ellen K. Coxe, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

December 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created  
 by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the  
 Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,  
 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information  
 and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringe-  
 ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438



## 117 Diamond

Description, continued

Page 2

Access was gained to both buildings via a second story rear window reached from the roof of the rear addition to No. 117. In plan the buildings are mirror images of each other: on the first story, No. 117 is one room wide with entrance door opening onto a front parlor, lit by a west facade window and with a fireplace on the south wall. At the northeast corner of this room is a doorway into the rear parlor which is distinguished by a fireplace centered on the south wall and flanked by a winder stair on the west and a closet to the east. The east wall is articulated by doorway to the south leading to the kitchen wing and a window to the north.

The kitchen wing, probably added within ten years of the buildings' initial construction, is also of brick with a flush chimney with hooded cap at the southeast corner. The wing was lit by two equal-sized windows on its north facade.

The interior of the second and third stories is identical to the plan of Number 119. The second floor plan consists of room behind room with a fireplace in each room on the south gable wall, in positions corresponding to the first floor layout. The fireplace in the rear room of the second floor is flanked by the stairway to the west. A brick party wall is shared with the dwelling to the north, number 119. The third story shares the same room behind room plan.

## Entries From Baltimore City Directories:

(excerpted from the files of the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland)

Sublease running with transactions recorded from at least 1833, when Daniel Robinsen conveys property to Francis Dawes with \$36.00 ground rent noted.

- 1833
1. Dawes, Francis: cooper  
Fayette Street below Greene and Paca  
dwelling, Dutch Alley
  2. Walker, Samuel P. (?): tobacco and cigar warehouse  
Market St. (?) above Eutaw  
dwelling, Fayette St.
  3. Edmund (?) Didier: merchant  
Calvert St.  
dwelling, Calvert Street north of Lexington
- 1835 - 36
1. Didier, E. - not listed
  2. Tierman - 11 Charles Street
  3. Dawes - Market Alley south of Lexington Street
  4. Walker, Samuel: carpenter  
Bane (?) St. west of Hanover
  5. Walker, S.D.: tobacco and cigar warehouse  
dwelling, Fayette
- 1837 - 38
1. no Didier
  2. no Tierman
  3. Walker, S.: tobacco merchant  
dwelling, Fayette Street, east of Paca
  - \*4. Dawes - Fayette Street west of Howard
  5. Hack, Andrew: grocer  
corner of Howard and Dutch Alley  
dwelling, Lexington Street
- 1842
1. Dawes, Francis - Fayette St. west of Howard
  2. Hack, A. - Lexington between Pine and Love Streets
  3. no Tiernam
  4. no Walker, S.
  5. Walker, S.A.: carpenter  
corner of Lombard and Sharp Streets  
dwelling, Madison Street west of Howard Street
  6. Preiss, Husch - Granby and High Streets
- 1845
1. Dawes - 149 Fayette St.
  2. Preiss: dry goods merchant
  3. no Hack
  4. Walker, Samuel: carpenter  
46 Bane Street
  5. Hack - 285 Lexington Street

117, 119 Diamond Alley

- 1855 - 56    1. Hartzog, George: broker  
house, 85 Camden  
2. Roloson, Fred: varnish manufacturer  
16 North Paca  
house, 305 (?745) Lexington Street  
3. Ridgeway, Sam - 88 Camden Street  
4. Snowden, Philip: land agent  
5. Haywood, Jac.: ornamental painter  
135 North Eutaw
- 1856 - 57    \*1. Hayward, Jacob: ornamental painter  
23 Diamond Street (now 127 Diamond)
- 1858 - 59    1. Linker, Lewis: Cabinetmaker  
15 Diamond Street ( now 119 Diamond)  
2. Reynolds, Luther M.: Attorney  
3. Snowden, Philip and Matthew: land agents  
88 Fayette Street



CHAIN OF TITLE

117, 119 Diamond Street

(excerpted from the files of the Commission on Historical  
and Architectural Preservation, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland)

JB 1037/179 2/2/1885 Mortgage	From Marie Hildebrand to Emmett/Perpetual's Mutual Building Association.
FAP 853/525 11/11/1879 Release	From Mphonsus Hall Building Association #12 to Hildebrand
GK 799/12 1/14/1878 Mortgage	From Michael Long to the Commercial Mutual Building Association.
GK 786/95 9/3/1877 Mortgage	From Michael Long to the Commercial Mutual Building Association.
GR 675/232 9/10/1874 Mortgage	From George Hildebrand (and Marie) to Alphonsus Hall Bldg. Assn.
GR 586/27 10/28/1871 Mortgage	From Thomas J. Hanley to Marg. (Michael) Long,
GR 540/44 11/16/1871 Release	From Charles St. Building Association (#6) to Heinrich Herguth.
GR 376/474 5/21/1868 Assignment	From Joseph Brunner to Hildebrand.
GES 228/279 3/26/1863 Assignment	From Jacob Hayward to Brunner.
GES 198/278 10/12/1860 Assignment	From Michael Lanahan to Luther M. Reynolds.
GES 181/222 12/15/1858 Lease	From Thomas M. Lanahan to Lewis Linker.
ED 150/202 6/19/1858 Assignment	From Philip M. Snowden to Jacob Hayward

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117, 119 Diamond Street

ED 150/200 6/19/1858 Sublease	From Thomas Lanahan and Sam(?) Ridgeway to Philip M. Snowden
ED 148/283 5/24/1857 Assignment	From Ridgeway to Lewis Linker
ED 126/325 5/2/1856 Release	From T.M. Lanahan to Ridgeway
ED 125/61 5/2/1856 Mortgage	From Ridgeway to Lanahan
ED 98/527 9/1/1856 Mortgage	From Ridgeway to Lanahan (for both properties)
ED 88/450 8/14/1855 Assignment	From Frederick Roloson to Ridgeway
AWB 418/75 8/8/1849 Lease	From Hirsch Preiss to Hartzog for "ground and premises" (\$120 annual ground rent).
AWB 412/34 4/19/1849 Sublease	From William A. Hack and Andrew A. Hack to Kaufman Hamburger
AWB 400/184 7/18/1848 Deed	From Samuel Walker to Francis Dawes (\$36 ground rent)
TK 338/132 1/25/1844 Deed	From George W. Brown (in trust for Charles Tiernan) to W.A. Hack (of the firm of Tiernan & Son, the surviving partner after Tiernan's death was in debt to H.A. Kuyper, trader in Rotterdam).
TK 267/452 12/8/1835 Assignment	From E. Didier (executress) to Tiernan, through Alex Brown
TK 238/440, 237/263 Sublease	From Samuel Walker to Didier, sublease (together with buildings)
TK 233/35 12/18/1833 Deed or Assignment (?)	From Daniel Robinson to Walker

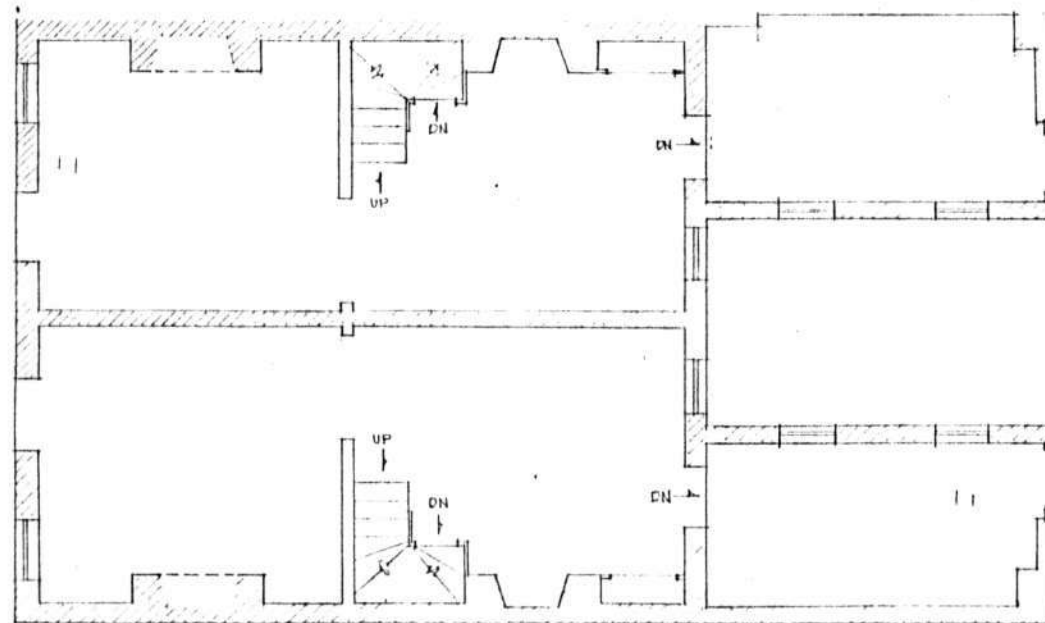
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117, 119 Diamond Street

TK 227/25  
1/2/1833  
Lease

From Charles Howard to Daniel Robinson, lease dated  
Jan. 2, 1833 for both properties "to have and to hold  
with improvements, said lot of ground and premises",  
for \$120 ground rent.

DIAMOND ALLEY



0 2 4 6 8 10  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

117-119 DIAMOND ALLEY  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

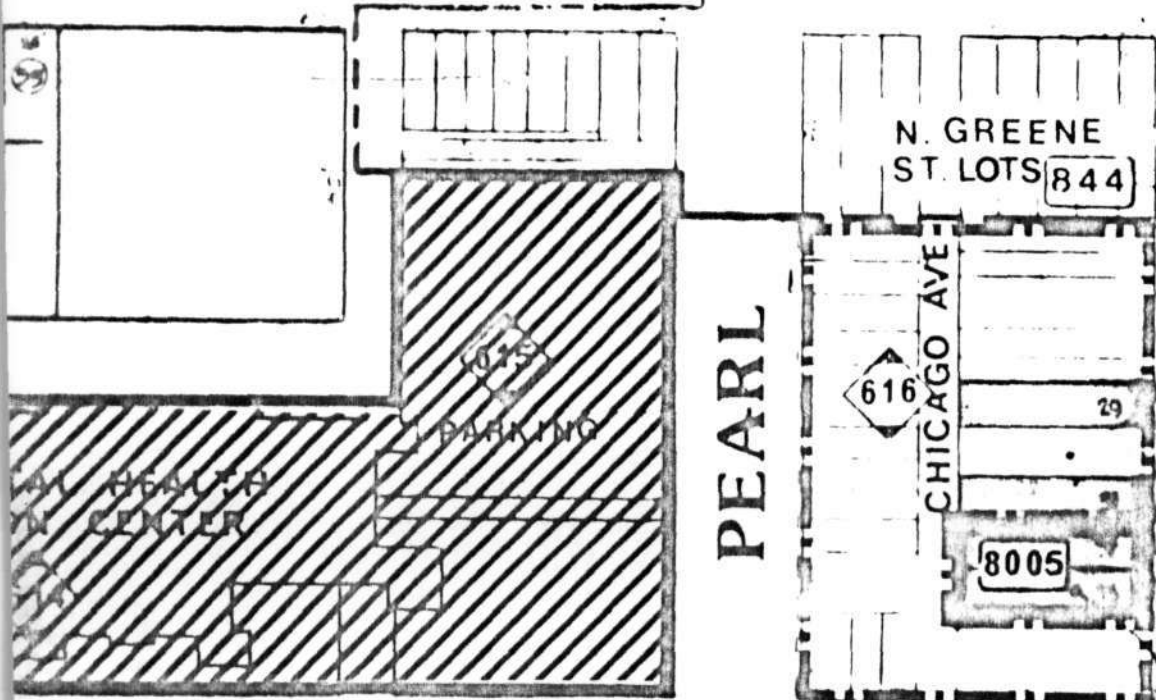
DECEMBER 7, 1979

B-3586

CIVIL LAW C

843

W. LEXINGTON STREET

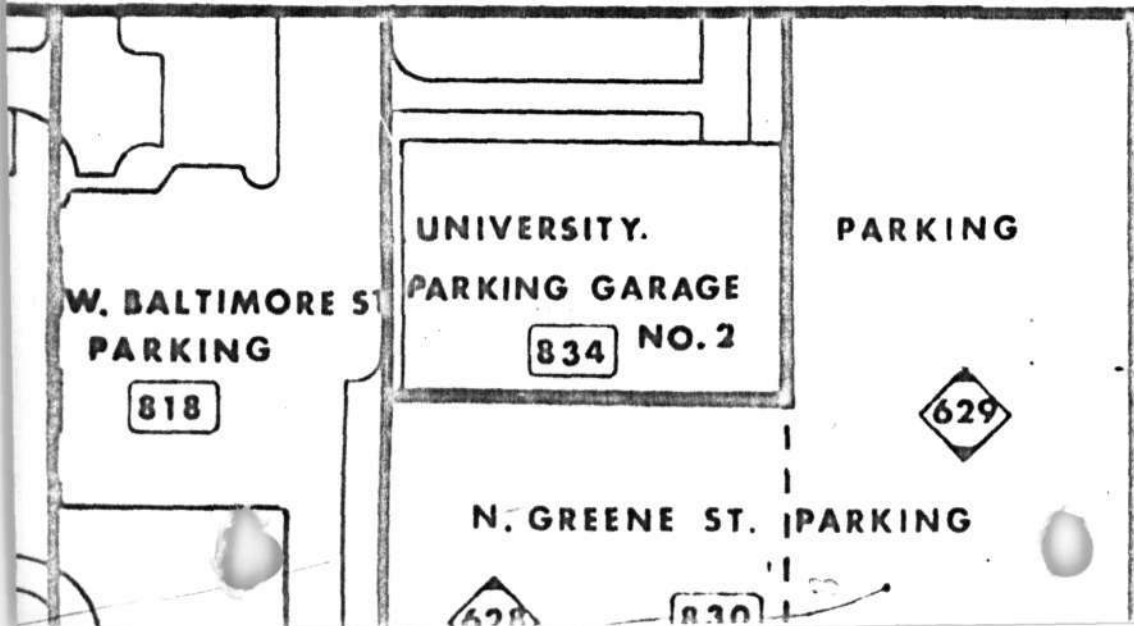


N. GREENE ST.

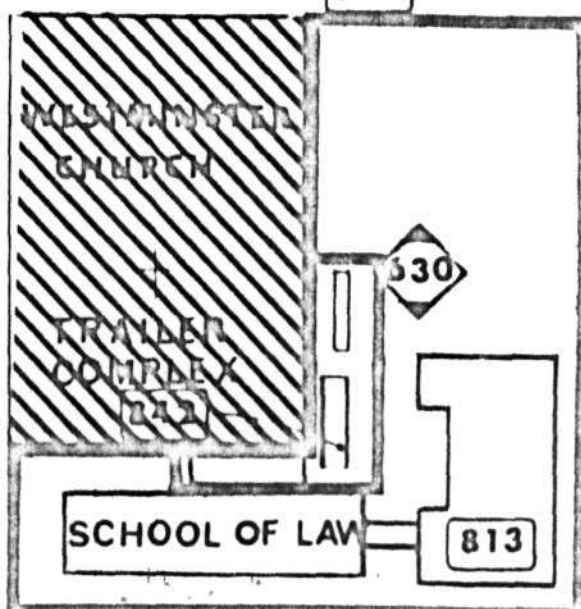


N. PACA STREET

W. FAYETTE STREET TUERK HOUSE



W FAYETTE ST. LOTS 848



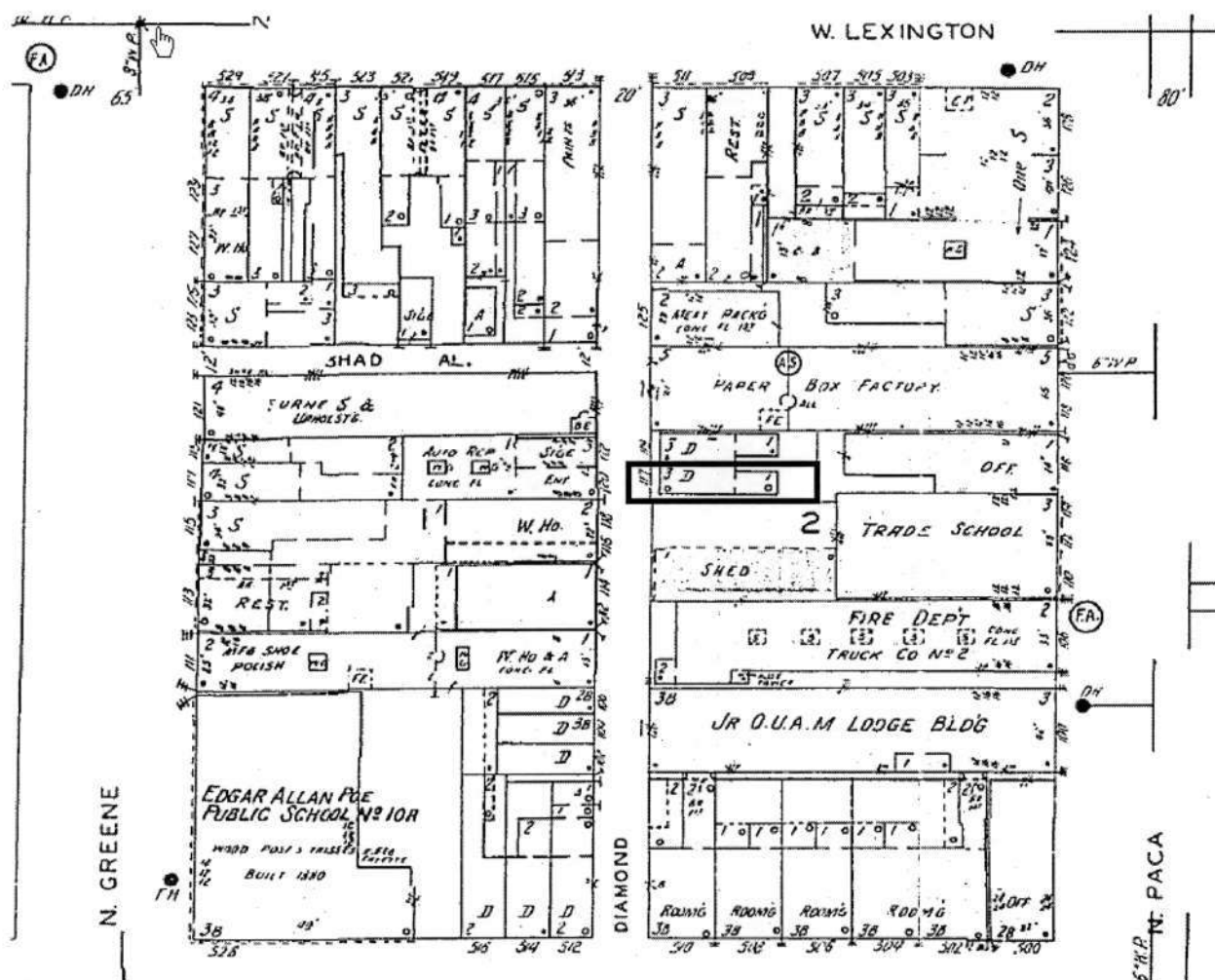
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Daniel Robinson House (George Hildebrand House)

117 Diamond Alley

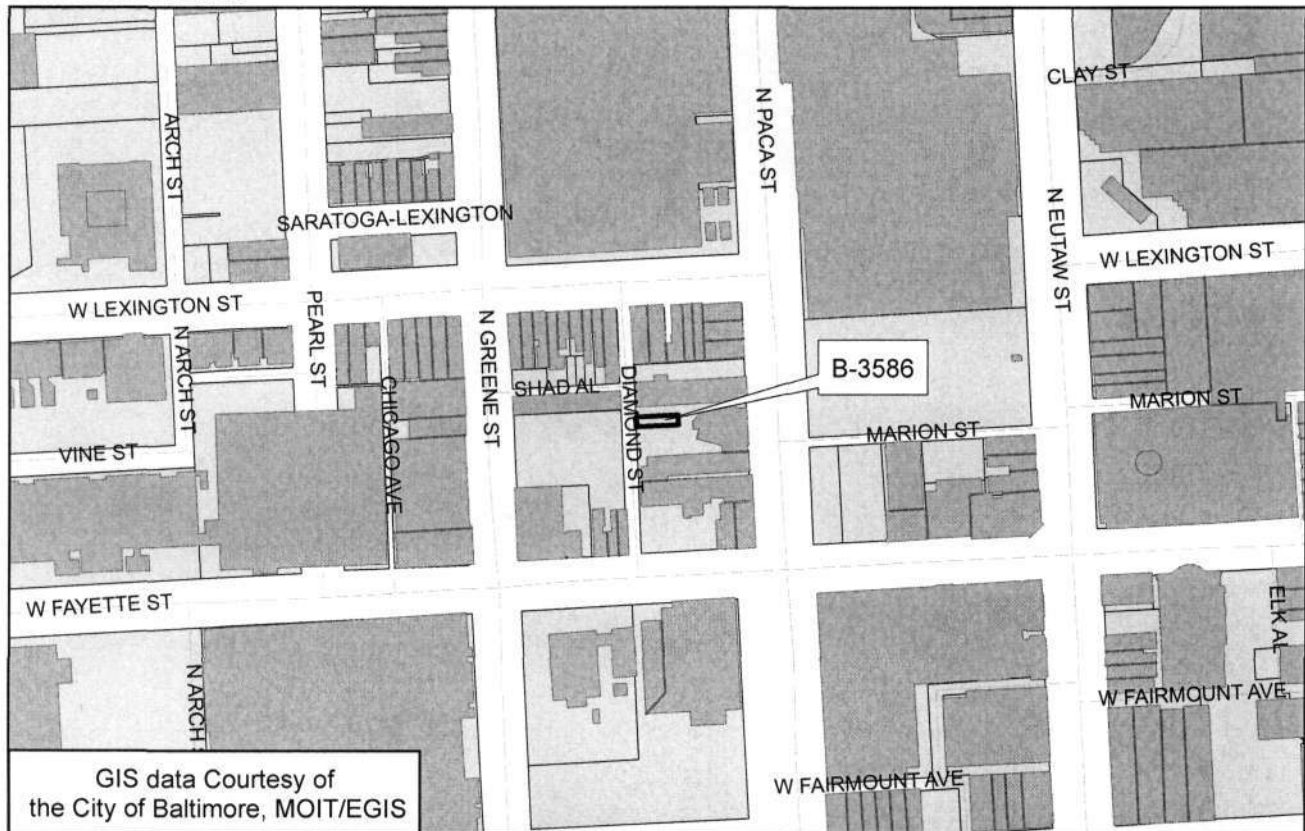
Baltimore

Sanborn Baltimore 1914-1953 vol. 1A, 1914, Sheet 30A





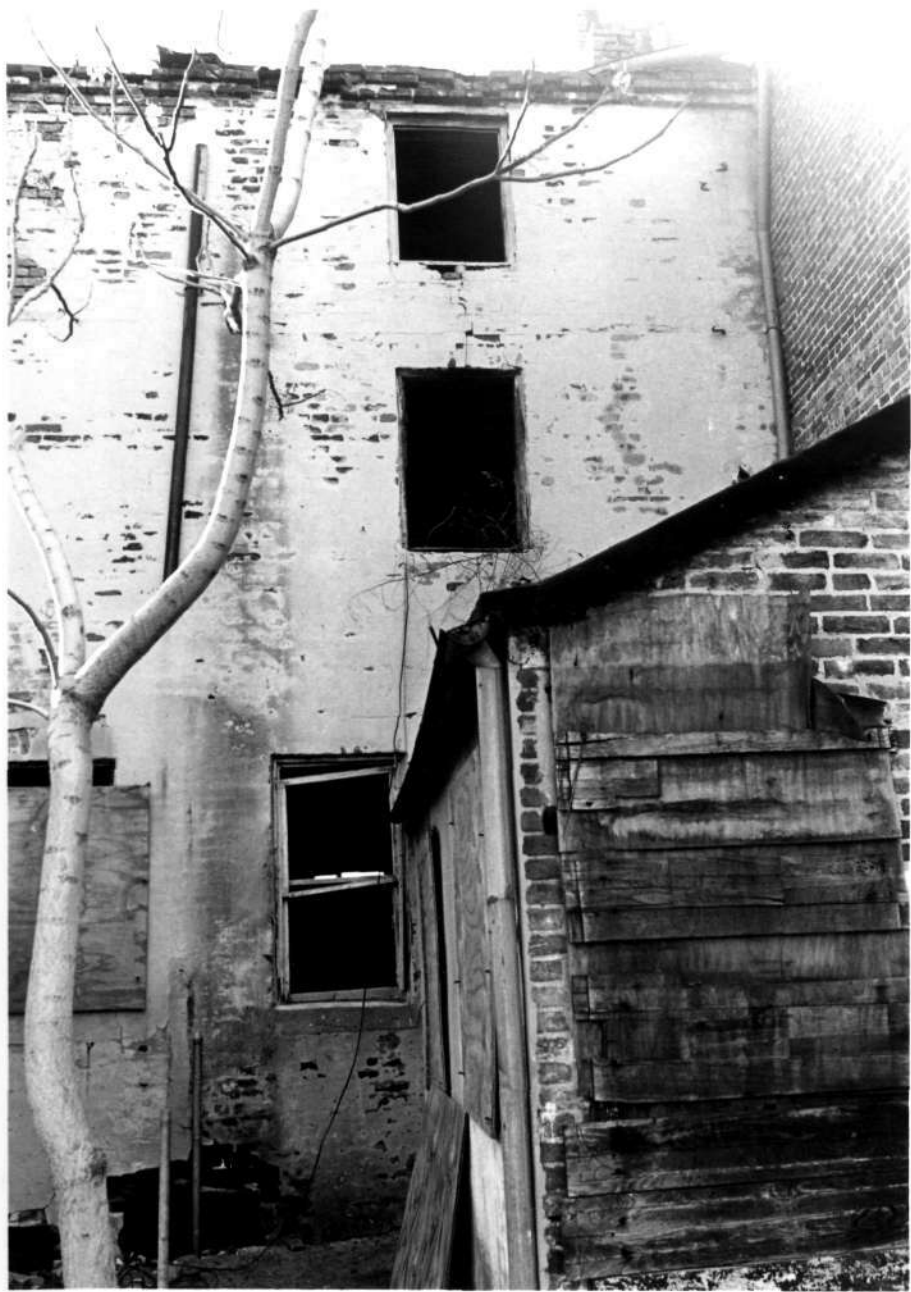
B-3586  
Daniel Robinson House (George Hildebrand House)  
117 Diamond Street  
Block 0617 Lot 034  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad





B-3587, 3586

119, 117 Diamond Alley  
Baltimore, MD (UMAB)  
Southwest elevation.  
12/79 E. Coxe



B-3587

119 Diamond Alley  
Baltimore, MD

East elevation showing kitchen addn.  
c. 1820-30.

12/79

E. Coxe





B-3586

B-3587

117, 119 Diamond Alley

Baltimore, MD

East elevation showing kitchen addns.  
to 117 (l.) and 119 (r.)

12/79

E. Coxe